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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Since the beginning of 1954, the Victorious February Works (Zavody Vitezneho unora), National Enterprise (formerly Skoda Works) in Hradec Kralove (N 50-13, E 15-50) and the Skoda Works, National Enterprise, in Adamov (N 49-19, E 16-40) have been mass-producing a mobile runway for the air force under a Soviet license. The idea for this mobile runway originated with the Americans and the Germans, who first worked on it during the last war, and it has since then been improved upon by the Soviets. This work was assigned to the above-mentioned plants toward the end of 1953.
2. Of the various parts of the mobile runway, the steel plates, of Skoda steel, 3 millimeters thick, are manufactured in the Hradec Kralove plant; manufacture of the carrying device and overall assembly take place in the bridge section of the Adamov plant; the special truck, with a capacity of up to 15 tons, and with an 8-cylinder engine developing 125 horsepower like that of the Tatra 128 model, is constructed in the body section of the plant of Tatra, National Enterprise, at Koprivnice (N 49-36, E 18-09).
3. The following are the characteristics of the special truck as well as of the mobile runway that it carries:
 - a. On the truck are mounted two drums, around which is wound an articulated band, made up of steel plates with a thickness of 3 millimeters and dimensions of 40 by 350 centimeters. The power needed by the drums to wind the articulated band is supplied by the engine of the truck itself.
 - b. The plates of the articulated band are connected to each other by soldered rings, thus resembling a chain.

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- c. The last plate of the band is equipped with an anchoring pin, which is planted into the ground in order to avoid any slipping of the band. Once the anchor is in place, the truck then goes forward very slowly and the band is unwound from the drums. As a general rule, several trucks move simultaneously side by side, depending on how wide a runway is desired, bearing in mind that each band is 350 centimeters wide.
4. By using these trucks, it is possible to lay a runway 35 to 45 meters wide and 300 meters long within 30 to 40 minutes, even on soft ground. A single truck can cover an area of 3.6 by 60 meters within 8 minutes.
5. It would appear that several trucks of this type are assigned to the various air force units. Each unit would receive the following equipment:

25 trucks with mobile runways

30 standard trucks

6 passenger cars

1 light armored car

16 motorcycles

Each unit would include the following personnel:

1 commanding officer (engineer)

2 junior officers (technicians)

1 junior officer (instructor)

300 enlisted men, of whom 200 would be lightly armed like infantrymen.

20 noncommissioned officers (mechanics)

15 regular noncommissioned officers

It has been estimated that during 1954 six weeks are required to complete a single unit for mobile runways. It is hoped that in succeeding years it may be possible to cut down production schedules by 30 percent, that is, to only four weeks. In order to step up production, several plants have been asked to participate in the program. The former Wikov plant in Prostějov (N 49-28, E 17-07) is ready to start production of mobile runways.

Comment: Presumably the plant now known as Agrostroj Prostějov, National Enterprise, which the 1951-1952 Olomouc regional telephone book listed at Svatooplukova 41, Prostějov.

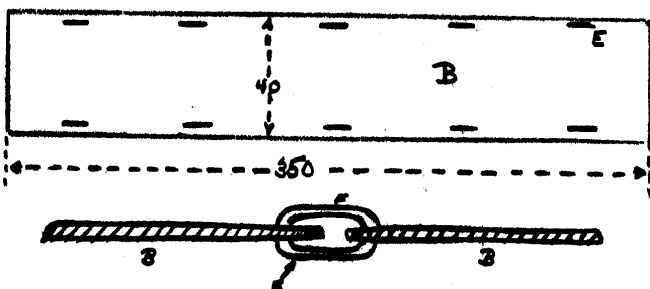
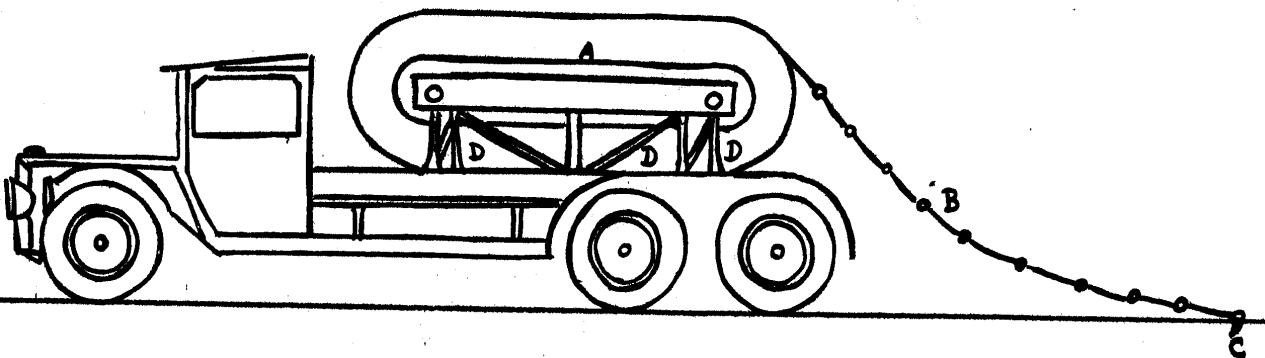
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Legend

- A. Wound up, band-like runway
- B. Individual plate, 40 by 350 centimeters, and 3 millimeters thick
- C. Anchoring pin (plowshare)
- D. Winding mechanism on truck
- E. Perforation necessary to join the individual plates
- F. Ring used to join the individual plates

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